the same is under multiple cropping, high-valued crops, technology is appropriate and prices are remunerative. Some research studies show the fallout of decrease in size of holdings are rise in small and marginal holdings, narrow base of production activities and underemployment.

(d) The steps taken by the Government include, *inter alia*, the strategies to increase production and productivity of the agricultural sector with resultant increase in the income of farmers in general and marginal and small farmers in particular. These include (i) timely availability of quality inputs, (ii) diversification to high value crops including horticulture, (iii) farmer friendly extension system, (iv) institutional credit flow and strengthening cooperative credit structure. Recently, the Government has also approved two schemes *viz.*, (i) National Food Security Mission and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme for implementing State and District Plans for agricultural development.

Role of CTRI

2018. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Central Tobacco Research Institute in improving the productivity of Virginian Tobacco in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of Virginia tobacco farmers who were helped in 2006-07 by CTRI;

(c) the proposed plans by CTRI to help Andhra farmers in 2007-08;

(d) whether it is a fact that no new initiative has been taken by CTRI to expand the distribution of high quality seedlings in 2007-08; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the role and future work of CTRI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) has played an important role in developing improved varieties and eco-friendly agro-technologies for enhancing productivity and quality of Virginia tobacco. CTRI plays a key role in the transfer of technology and production and distribution of tobacco seed to farmers in Andhra Pradesh. Productivity of Virginia tobacco inreased from 730 kg/ha. in 1950/51 to nearly 1250 kg/ha. in 2005-06.

(b) Around 65,000 Virginia tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh were helped in 2006-07 by CTRI through supply of good quality seed, healthy seedlings and transfer of technology.

(c) Tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh are being helped in 2007-08 by CTRI through supply of good quality seed, healthy seedlings and transfer of technology.

(d) No, Sir. A total of 20,014 kg tobacco seed of improved varieties (Hema, VT 1158, Siri, Gauthami, Kanthi, Kanchan and Rathna) was produced for distribution during 2007-08 season which is in excess of last year's seed production. In addition, arrangements have been made to supply quality seedlings to farmers.

(e) The role and research programmes of CTRI are reviewed by various Committees such as Institute Research Committee (IRC), Research Advisory Committee (RAC), Institute Management Committee (IMC), Quinquennial Review Team (QRT), etc.

Loss due to poor storage facility

2019. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that storage of foodgrains in villages by farmers has led to losses due to pests, weather, etc.;

(b) whether there is any scheme to help panchayats or mandals build modern ware-houses with small capitals to store grain in villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps Government are taking to enable farmers to store grains in villages; and

(e) the details of steps to reduce loss of foodgrains due to rats, pests and weather?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Central Sector Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for promoting public as well as private sector investment in the country for creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet the requirement of farmers for storing farm- produce, processed farm produce, consumer articles/ agricultural inputs, promotion of grading, standardization and quality control of agricultural produce to improve their marketability, prevention of distress sales immediately after harvest by providing the facility of pledge financing/marketing credit, to strengthen agricultural marketing inftastructure in the country by paving way for the introduction of a national system of warehouse receipts in respect of agricultural commodities stored in such godowns and to reverse the declining trend of investment in agriculture sector by encouraging private and cooperative sector to invest in the creation of storage inftastructure in the country. The capital investment subsidy available under the Scheme is @ 25% of the capital cost with an upper ceiling of Rs.37.50 lakh for farmers, agricultural graduates and public agencies and @ 15% for other individuals and companies/corporations with an upper ceiling of Rs.22.50 lakh. For North-East States and hilly areas and in the cases of entrepreneurs belonging to SCs/STs, the rate of subsidy has been kept as 33.33% of the capital cost of the project with an upper ceiling of Rs.50.00 lakh for each project.

Under the scheme, the entrepreneur including Panchayats and Mandals, are free to construct or encourage godowns at any place, as per their commercial judgment except for the restriction that it would be constructed only outside the limits of Municipal Corporation area.